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MARVEL
alternate universe
79 • NOVEMBER

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FEDERAL
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ON COMMERCE

WHAT IF... STORM HAD THE POWER OF PHOENIX?



FROM
THE ASHES:
A GODDESS
AGAIN!

DIRECT EDITION



\$1.50 US \$2.10 CAN

NO ONE REMEM-
BERS WHEN HIS
FAITH FIRST BEGINS
TO WOBBLE...

BEING UNSTEADY
ONCE IN A WHILE--
THAT'S EXPECTED.

LIKE A CHILD WHO FALTERS
WITHOUT TRAINING WHEELS,
WHILE LEARNING THE BALANCE
OF BELIEF IN ACTION.

SHE LEARNS TO
RIDE, ANYWAY.

HODI,
PROUD
KITTEN.

IT'S KITTY
PRIDE, ANADI.

A PRIDE IS A
FAMILY, AND YOU
ARE YET ONE.

AH, BUT I AM
PART OF ORORO'S
FAMILY, NOW.

BREEP BREEP
BREEP
AND ONCE SHE
LEARNES, SHE
NEVER FORGETS.

IT'S THE CRASHING THAT
ONE REMEMBERS.

OH GOD! OH
GOD! I CAN'T
BELIEVE THIS--

--THEY BROKE
THE TREATY.

AGAINST EVERY REASONABLE EXPECTATION,
AT THE CLOSE OF THE 20TH CENTURY, WE
LIVED WITH LESS WAR, HUNGER, FEAR, AND
INJUSTICE THAN EVER BEFORE IN THE
HISTORY OF MAN.

WE ALSO LIVED
WITHOUT FLIGHT.

THE WIND THAT CIRCLES THE
UPPER LAYERS OF OUR AT-
MOSPHERE REJECTED LIKE A
WHIPCORD TO HER SLIGHTEST
WHIM.

JUST AS
WE DID.

THE STORM
PHOENIX BUILT
A GRAVE NEW WORLD,
WITH HERSELF AT THE
HELM IN THE EYE OF A
GREAT, COLD HURRI-
CANE, AND THE GIFTED CHILDREN
AS CHICKS
BENEATH HER
WING.

I FOLLOWED
HER WITHOUT
HESITATION.

THOSE WHO FOUGHT HER
FOUND THEMSELVES HELD
IN A LIVING UNDEATH OF
HYPOTHERMIA-- FROZEN,
BECAUSE THE STORM
PHOENIX DID
NOT KILL.

SHE DIDN'T HAVE
TO, UNTIL TODAY.

FOR THE WORLD IS RULED
FROM THE SHADOW OF A
COMMANDEERED S.H.I.E.L.D.
HELICARRIER WHICH CIRCLES
THE GULF IN THE EYE OF THE
TERRIBLE STORM.

AND TODAY
THE HURRICANE
IS MOVING.

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UNDER ORORO'S ECO-TREATIES,
WE ALL GAVE UP THINGS WE HELD
DEAR.

EASY PAPER, PRIVATE
CARS - BUT THE YALLIT
REFUSED TO GIVE UP
WHALING.

IT WAS PART OF
THEIR IDENTITY,
THEY SAID, PART
OF THEIR
HERITAGE.

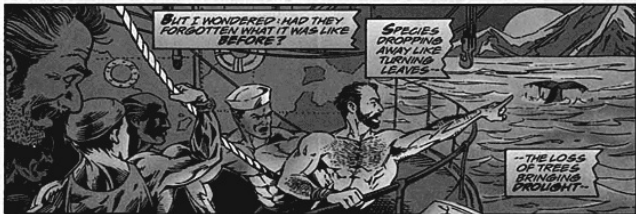
TO GIVE UP THE EGO
IS A LITTLE DEATH,
I KNEW THIS.



BUT I WONDERED: HAD THEY
FORGOTTEN WHAT IT WAS LIKE
BEFORE?

SPECIES
DROPPING
AWAY LIKE
TURNING
LEAVES--

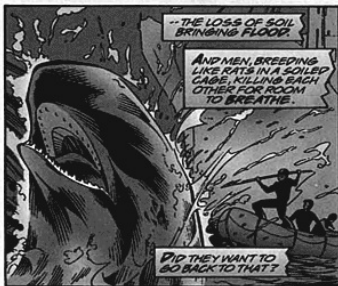
--THE LOSS
OF TREES
BRINGING
DROUGHT--



--THE LOSS OF SOIL
BRINGING FLOOD.

AND MEN, BREEDING
LIKE RATS IN A SOILED
CAGE, KILLING EACH
OTHER FOR ROOM
TO BREATHE.

DID THEY WANT TO
GO BACK TO THAT?



JUST TO
PRESERVE
A STORY?



COVENANTS BROKEN

WHAT IF STORM HAD THE
POWER OF PHOENIX?

THEY CAME TO
HER FROM EVERY
CORNER OF THE
WORLD.

THESE GIFTED
MUTANT CHILDREN,
THESE GUARDIANS
OF EVOLUTION.

AND IT'S
WELL THAT
THEY
SHOULD...

--FOR THEY
ARE NATURE'S
NEXT LIVING
WAVE.

THEY LOVE THE
STORM PHOENIX
UNCONDITIONALLY.

AS I
ONCE
DID.

WE HAVE
AN EMERGENCY,
YOUR GRACE.

EVERY YEAR, THE
YALLUT HAVE CONDUCTED
A WHALE HUNT, FOR THE
YOUNG MEN OF
THE VILLAGE.

THEY CLAIMED
IT WAS A RITE
OF PASSAGE.

THEN AGAIN, OUR
SOURCES TELL US
THE BLACK MARKET
PRICE FOR AMBERGRIS
HAS GONE THROUGH
THE ROOF.

YOUR GRACE,
THE YALLUT ARE
HUNTING...





WINTER GROWS ACROSS
MY JOINTS IN SEARING,
BRITTLE PAIN, AS MY
GODDESS BRINGS ME
TO MY KNEES.

SHE DOESN'T
LIKE TO BE
DIRECTED,
EVEN
GENTLY.



YOU FORGOT
YOURSELF, OLD
MAN.

I'M NO CHILD
AT YOUR CAMP-
FIRE, LISTENING
TO OLD STORIES.

--TO HEAR
WHAT THE GODS
SAY IS RIGHT
AND WRONG.



SOON, EVEN
I WILL NOT BE
ABLE TO REIN
HER IN.

WHEN SHE WAS NOT
QUITE A GODDESS,
SHE KNEW COMPASSION.

I SAY WHAT
IS RIGHT AND
WHAT IS
WRONG.

BUT NOW THAT SHE HOLDS
THE WORLD IN HER ICY WINGS,
SHE KNOWS ONLY JUDGMENT.



AND ALL OUR PROPHETS
SAID EVEN GOD IS NOT
GOD IN THAT WAY...

...LEST HE BE A
TYRANT.

SO DO I CHOOSE, AFTER
ALL THESE YEARS, TO FOLLOW
HER CHANGING SENSE OF
VIRTUE, OR TO RETURN
TO MY OWN...
...WITHOUT HER!



THE HURRICANE FLIES
ACROSS THE OCEAN
WITH SUPERNATURAL
SPEED, LIKE AN AIR-
BORN WHIRLPOOL--



--GATHERING
AMMUNITION
TO RAZE ITS
INTENDED
TARGET.



AND AS THE WHALE
WAITS, DIMLY AWARE
OF THE PAIN WHICH
WILL FOLLOW--



--SO DOES ORORO'S
JUSTICE FIND THE
WHALE'S IN ONE,
GREAT--

BOOM!



CAUGHT,
SENTENCED--

--AND EXECUTED WITH ALL
THE MERCY OF A HUNTRESS.

AND NONE OF
THE RESTRAINT.

THE HURRICANE
THAT KILLED THE
WHALEERS TOOK
THEIR FAMILIES.

THEIR FRIENDS.

THEIR NEIGHBORS.

AND THEIR
NEIGHBORS'
CHILDREN.

INSTEAD OF BEING A
PART OF THE LIFE FORCE --

--THE CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH,
GROWTH AND REBIRTH.

WHAT ARE
WE GOING
TO DO?

WE ARE
GOING TO
COUNT THE
DEAD.

WHAT'S THE
POINT? THEY'RE
ALL DEAD.

I USED
TO BELIEVE
IN HER--

--HOW COULD
I HAVE BELIEVED
IN THIS?!

YOU BELIEVED
BECAUSE SHE WASN'T
ALWAYS LIKE THIS.

THE STORMPHOENIX HAS COME
TO BELIEVE SHE IS THAT
LIFE FORCE.

AND WHAT
THE STORM DECIDES
IS NOT MURDER, IT'S
NATURAL SELECTION.



THE DESERT GROWS
EVERY YEAR, IN RESPONSE
TO DECISIONS MADE BY
MEN IN FOREIGN CITIES--

--WHO THINK OF
THE WORLD AS MADE
OF SEPARATE
PATCHWORK
PIECES.



AND ALL WE CAN DO IN AFRICA,
ORORO, IS EASE THE SUFFERING,
UNTIL THESE MEN CHANGE
THEIR DECISIONS.

AND THE
EARTH, IN RETURN,
CHANGES HER
RESPONSE.

BUT WHAT
IF THEY NEVER
DO?



WHEN PROFESSOR
XAVIER FOUND HER,
ORORO SAW AN OP-
PORTUNITY TO LEARN
ABOUT THE WORLD
WHERE SUCH DECISIONS
WERE MADE...

...AND SHE
TOOK IT.



I WILL RETURN,
MY FRIEND--

AS SHE ONCE LEFT HER
TEACHER IN CAIRO TO
SEARCH THE DESERT,
SHE NOW LEFT THE DES-
ERT TO FIND YET AN-
OTHER TEACHER IN
THE "MODERN
WORLD."

--WHEN I
KNOW WHAT
CAN BE
DONE.



FOR A LONG
TIME, I
WAITED.

UNTIL I FELT
SHE WOULD NOT
RETURN.



BUT IT SEEMS THERE WERE NO
SIMPLE SOLUTIONS IN THE
WORLD OF "MODERN" MEN.



OR PERHAPS SHE WAS
CONSUMED WITH MORE
PRESSING PROBLEMS.



SCOTT!!

JEANE

SHE'S OUT COLD-- GRAB HER
AND MOVE, THIS WHOLE SEC-
TION'S AWAZE AND THE
FIRE'S SPREADING.

THE STATION
COULD BLOW
ITSELF TO
BITS, ANY
MINUTE
NOW!

WE'VE LOST THE FLIGHT CONTROL COMPUTER, THE HULL'S BEEN BREACHED BY A GREAT THUMPING HOLE IN ITS SIDE.

AND THE SOLAR STORM IS KICKING OUT ENOUGH FLARE TO FRY US ALL.

I-- I CAN SAVE THE SHIP.

JEAN MIGHTY BE ABLE TO SHIELD HERSELF AND INTUITION HOW TO USE THE CONTROLS-- BUT SHE'S OUT COLD!

HOW!?

BY SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE OF SUN AND WIND, I CAN GUIDE--

RORO, THIS'S NO TIME FOR SWAHILI MUMBO-JUMBO!

WHERE DO YOU THINK WEATHER COMES FROM, LOGAN?!

IT'S A MANIPULATION OF ATMOSPHERE--

-- NO MATTER HOW THIN.

WHERE DO
YOU THINK
WEATHER
COMES
FROM,
LOGAN?!

WHHSHHH

NOW, GO!

WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER--

SHE GIVES US NO CHOICE--

WE CAN'T
JUST LEAVE
HER--

ORORO MANIPULATED THE SOLAR WIND, ENVELOPING THE SHUTTLE IN A COOLING, PROTECTIVE SHIELD...

...SHELTER AGAINST THE RADIOACTIVITY OF THE FLARE...

BRINGING IT TO WHERE A TORNADO OF MASSIVE PROPORTION COULD REACH UP JUST ENOUGH TO AID GRAVITY IN PULLING THEM DOWN.

MOVING IN TOO FAST...
BARELY ENOUGH
STRENGTH TO KEEP
THE TEMPERATURE
DOWN!

AND ALL SHE HAD TO DO IS STAY ALIVE--

--UNTIL IT'D LANDED.

--UNTIL
IT'D
LANDED

AND DRESSED FORTH THE LAST
OUNCE OF LIVING ENERGY...



-- TO PRESERVE THE LIVES
OF HER TEAMMATES-- THOSE
ONCE CALLED THE X-MEN.



ONLY ONE OF THEM
SURVIVED.

YOU DIDN'T
SWIM ASHORE,
AND YOU AIN'T
WASHED UP.

WHERE
ARE YOU,
RORO?



ORORO?



WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?
SINCE WHEN DO YOU WALK
ON WATER, STORM?

SINCE I AM...
PHOENIX.

THE
OTHERS
--?



THE EXTREME COLD-- WAS
TOO MUCH FOR THEM...

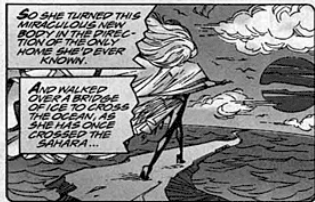
THERE WAS
NOTHING MORE
YOU COULD'VE
DONE.

AS BEFORE,
HER EFFORT
WAS NOT
ENOUGH.



SO SHE TURNED THIS
MIRACULOUS NEW
BODY IN THE DIREC-
TION OF THE ONLY
HOME SHE'D EVER
KNOWN.

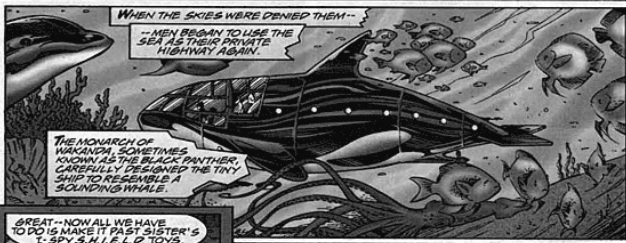
AND WALKED
OVER A BRIDGE
OF ICE TO CROSS
THE OCEAN, AS
SHE HAS ONCE
CROSSED THE
SAHARA...



... TO FIND
ME.

NOW
WE CAN
BEGIN.





MEANWHILE, IN THE
HELLGARRIER'S MESS HALL...

WAS
IT VERY
TERRIBLE,
KITTY?

I KNOW I WOULDN'T WANT
TO BE HER FAVORITE -- br-r-r.

I DON'T
WANT TO TALK
ABOUT IT.

FAVORITE
FOOL, MAYBE.

WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN
EASIER TO SHOW FORCE
THAN TO USE IT?

HOMO-SAPIENS
HEED THREATS--NOT
WARNINGS.

OH, LIKE HOMO-
SUPERIORS ARE
NEVER SHORT SIGHT-
ED, RIGHT MAGNUS?

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE KING OF
ALL MUTANTS, DEVOLVED TO
A 13-YEAR OLD? I HATE IT
WHEN YOU TALK LIKE THAT.

IT'S RARE THAT
WHAT'S NECESSARY
IS ALSO PLEASANT.

PLEASANT?

A BLIND EYE TO
OUR TREATIES SETS A
DANGEROUS PRECEDENT,
KITTEN.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN SAVED MILLIONS
WHEN HE BOMBED HIROSHIMA--

-- BUT NO ONE
SAID IT WAS EASY.

WHAT ABOUT
NAGASAKI?

DON'T MIND HER.
WE UNDERSTAND--

--YOU SACRIFICED
A COUNTRY TO SAVE
A WORLD.

KITTYPRIDE
CHOOSSES HER
WORDS WITH
GINGER
CARE.

I'M SURE
IT COST YOU
A GREAT
DEAL.

I KNEW YOU
WOULD
UNDERSTAND,
KITTEN.

THERE IS TOO
MUCH AT STAKE
TO LET HER
SENTIMENT
SLIP.

EVEN AMONG
THE GIFTED--

-- YOU ARE
VERY SPECIAL.

LOGAN WAS A MUTANT,
AND A VETERAN WITNESS
TO THEIR STRANGE
POTENTIAL.

BUT NOTHING IN THE
QUIRKY EVOLUTION
OF RANDOM DNA--

--COULD HAVE PREDICTED
THE SIGHT OF HIS FRIEND
SLEEPING LIKE SOME
FAERIE PRINCESS--

--IN A MEMBRANE OF
TRANSLUCENT ENERGY
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE
OCEAN!

HOW'D YOU
KNOW SHE WAS
GONNA BE
THERE?

I DIDN'T
KNOW. I
SUSPECTED.

ORORO SEEMS IM-
PERVIOUS TO PATIOLE
AND ASING. SOMETHING
HAD HAPPENED TO HER
ON THAT FLIGHT FROM
SPACE.

I HOPED FOR A
CLUE, BUT I NEVER
EXPECTED THIS.

"NOW I KNOW. THE WOMAN WE
HAVE NAILED AS GODDESS--
THIS PHOENIX--IS NOT STORM.

"BUT NEITHER IS THERE
A GUARANTEE THAT THE
WOMAN YOU HOLD IS
THE WOMAN WE KNEW...

"...OR EVEN
YET ALIVE.

"THERE IS ONLY ONE TO WHOM
WE CAN TAKE HER BODY.

"AND HE IS HARDLY WHAT
WE WOULD CALL--

"--A FRIEND."

WELCOME TO
THE UNDERGROUND,
GENTLEMEN.



WE WAITED, AND
PRAYED--

--TO WHATEVER WE
BELIEVED IN--

--THAT ORORO'S TRUE
BODY WOULD REMAIN
CONSCIOUSNESS.

WE ALL WANTED HER
AWAKENED, BUT EACH
HAD DIFFERENT
REASONS.

YOUR PEOPLE ARE
RUSHING, DOOM. WE
NEED HER LUCID.

WE NEED
HER MOBILE,
WHICH MEANS
WE DRAG HER
IF WE MUST!

C'MON
'RORO--YOU
GOTTA WAKE
UP.

YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE LEFT...

THAT WAS
NOT PART OF
OUR ORIGINAL
AGENDA.

ALL OVER AFRICA,
PEOPLE ARE DYING IN HER
NAME--WE NEED THE REAL
ORORO TO PUT AN END
TO THE CIVIL WARS!

DOOM'S RIGHT.
ONE OF HER IS
MORE'N ENOUGH,
THANK YOU.

WE'RE BETTER
DEAD THAN UNDER
THE SADDLE OF A
SELF-APPOINTED
WORLD MONARCH
ONE DAY LONGER.

AND I WONDER, AS I
STARE AT THESE ANGRY,
DISSIDENT MEN--

--ARE THEY ANY MORE FIT
TO INHERIT THE REIGNS OF
THE WORLD?





"HOW LONG WILL IT HOLD THEM?"

"THE GAS? NORMAL HUMANS--ABOUT AN HOUR. MUTANTS?..."

"...WHO KNOWS?"



LONG ENOUGH TO SET THE CHARGES AND EVACUATE THE UNCONSCIOUS.

AS LONG AS THESE FIRE CRACKERS AREN'T GOING OFF IN SOME KID'S FACE.



ELECTRO-MAGNETIC CHARGES--DOOM DESIGNED THEM TO DISRUPT COMPUTER EQUIPMENT--

--AND SHUT DOWN THE HELICARRIED ONE SYSTEM AT A TIME.



NOT ON MY WATCH.

FLURY--WE'RE MADE!

WOLVERINE!

LOGAN! YOUR MASK!



OKAY--MOVE OUT! MOVE OUT!

AMATEURS.

DON'T KID YOURSELF--WE GOT LUCKY.

SO IT WAS WE GNT
OFF STORM'S EYES
TO THE WORLD...

MY SCREEN!
VITE!
ASSISTANCE!

DON'T BE ALARMED,
JEAN MARIE. WE'RE NOT
HERE TO HURT YOU.

THIS IS NOT
A DRILL--THE SHIP
IS BREAKING DOWN!
MOVE QUIETLY TO
THE EMERGENCY
EXITS--

KARASHY!

zeep zeep zeep

Bom Bom Bom

--YOU'RE
ALL GOING
HOME.

I AGREE TO NO SUCH THING!
YOU'RE A FOOL, PANTHER--

--TO SCATTER
THESE LIVING
WEAPONS ACROSS
THE GLOBE!

LIVING IS
THE KEY WORD,
ISN'T IT,
DOOM?

WE
AIN'T GOT
TIME FOR
THIS!

OUT
YOU GO--

"THOSE THAT
CAN FLY, CATCH
THE OTHERS!"

PITY THERE IS
NO ONE TO CATCH
YOU, TRAITORS!

THE STORM
PHOENIX IS
AWAKE! GET--

AAARRRRH

FOOM!

ARE
YOU
NEXT...

--BROTHER
X-MAN?

AAHHHH!

JUST
KEEP
HER DIS-
TRACTED A
LITTLE
LONGER.

PANTHER!
GRAB THE
KIDS!

THEN
WHAT?

WOLVERINE?

THIS HIGH INTENSITY
MICRO-WAVE BURST
SHOULD HELP THAW OUR
FRIENDS OUTSIDE.

THEN
WHAT?!

ELSEWHERE, WITHIN
THE ASSAULT
HELICOPTER...

I'M NOT
SURE I CAN
DO THIS.

YOU
MUST.

THEN, IN THE MOST
DIFFICULT TASK OF
HER LIFE, KITTY
PRIDE PHASES
DIRECTLY INTO
THE BODY OF
ANOTHER
PERSON...

-- GIVING HERSELF
JUST ENOUGH
SUBSTANCE TO MOVE
LIMB AND LIMB
AND A HEART
NOT HER OWN.

IF IT
DOESN'T
WORK, SHE'LL
DIE.

IF IT
DOESN'T
WORK, SHE'S
ALREADY
DEAD.

I'M...
READY.

"IF IT'S NOT
TOO LITTLE..."

HANG ON,
SWEETHEART...
CLOSE YER
EYES...

"...TOO LATE."

...AND
HANG ON...

CLITCH

ENOUGH!
IT'S TIME TO
CHOOSE YOUR
FUTURE--WILL
YOU THRIVE
WITH ME?

OR
PERISH
WITH
THEM?

YOU
CAN'T
KILL US
ALL--

--YOUR
CONSCIENCE
WON'T LET
YOU.

YOU'RE MISTAKEN,
NORTHSTAR.

FOOM!

ONLY BECAUSE
YOU'RE NOT WHO
YOU CLAIM TO
BE.

ORORO
DOES NOT
KILL.



YOU KNOW
WHO I AM, IN
YOUR HEART,
YOU KNOW.

IT'S TIME
FOR A CHOICE,
CHILDREN.

WHICH
FUTURE
WILL YOU
CHOOSE?

HERS,
OR YOUR
OWN?

PERHAPS IT WAS SEEING
THEIR GODDESS, FOR THE
FIRST TIME, IN A MORE
HUMAN FORM, THAT DREW
THE CHILDREN TO STORM...

OR THE UNCERTAINTY IN
THE PHOENIX'S EYES, AT
BEING CONFRONTED WITH
THE IMPOSSIBLE DUALITY.

HOW...?

WHOEVER--
WHATEVER
YOU ARE,
STORM--
PHOENIX--

--YOUR
REIGN OF
TERROR IS
OVER. LET'S
GO.

SHE SUDDENLY
STOOD ALONE,
AND SOMEONE
HELPLESS.

HOW?
HOW?

YOU MISSED
SOMETHING ABOUT
HUMAN CHARACTER,
LADY.

IN AMERICA,
WE HAVE
A SAYING:
"LIVE FREE--"

"--OR
DIE."



THE FINAL
PAGE OF
THE PLAN
WAS KNOWN
ONLY TO FURY,
WOLVERINE,
AND MYSELF.

TURN
AWAY!
CLOSE
YOUR
EYES!

ANY ONE OF US WAS
PREPARED FOR THE
SACRIFICE, IF CALLED
UPON, TO DETONATE
MULTIPLE WARHEADS
IN THE HANGAR BAY.

WE DID NOT KNOW IF IT WOULD DESTROY THE PHOENIX--
BUT IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY DRIVE HER AWAY.

I WAS THE ONLY ONE
WHO ACTUALLY SAW
WHAT HAPPENED.

AND
NOTHING
MORE AFTER
THAT.



WHEN KITTY
LEFT ORORO'S
BODY...

...SO TOO, DID
THE LAST BIT
OF LIFE.

AND WHETHER HER SPIRIT
LEFT WITH THE STORM-
PHOENIX, OR HAD GONE
YEARS BEFORE --

-- I KNEW, NOW, THAT I
WAS LITERALLY ALONE.

MY GODDESS
WAS DEAD.

AND I HAD
KILLED HER.

MY GODDESS HAD
LEFT ME BLIND
AND FAITHLESS---

WONDERING HOW WE
WOULD FACE THE
FUTURE WITHOUT HER
TO GUIDE US.

THEY SHOULD
RETURN TO THEIR
HOMELANDS---

THEY MUST
COME WITH ME!
THEY NEED
GUIDANCE,
TRAINING...

TO BE
USED
AGAIN?

I THINK WE'RE
GOING TO NEED A
NEW HOME.

LOOKS
THAT WAY,
DOESN'T
IT?

WHAT
DO WE DO NOW,
LOGAN?

WE MAKE IT
UP AS WE GO
ALONG, KID...

...WE MAKE IT UP
AS WE GO ALONG.

WONDERING, AS THEY
PICK UP THE REIGNS
OF THE WORLD--

--WILL THEY LOVE
IT MORE THAN
WE DID?

WILL THEY HOLD
IT BETTER?

NEXT: THE HULK... INTELLIGENT... EVIL... AND OUT OF CONTROL!

HULK **THE MAESTRO!**